

PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

BRITISH IRON COMPANY.

A special general meeting of the proprietors of this company was held at the London Tavern, Highgate-street, on Friday, the 20th ult., to resolve and take into consideration the report of the directors and committee of proprietors.

Sir George Lupton, Bart., is the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, in the first instance, read the circular letter calling the meeting, addressed to the proprietors, and signed by Robert Smith, the secretary; he afterwards read the following report of the directors and committee to the shareholders:—

REPORT.

In their general report, made to the proprietors of the British Iron Company at the annual meeting, held on the 10th May last, the directors stated that, over and above the report of the committee of proprietors, in the month of September, 1861, they had accordingly looked to the means of winding up the affairs of the company by a sale of its property, but that, from the state of the iron trade, this was then, and had ever since been, impossible. That the directors, after inquiring in the expectations of those best informed on the subject, had found for such an improvement as would give a marketable value to the property, and then made them to every one their intentions; but that, in this, they had been altogether disappointed, the price of iron having continued to fall in a degree quite unprecedented. That the manufacturers had, in consequence, been obliged, in the last year, with a severe loss, in addition to the heavy payment the company had to make for interest, and that, under such circumstances, it appeared to the directors absolutely necessary that decided measures should be now taken to meet the debts of the company, and that, of all events, put a stop to the heavy drain for interest. That it might be desired whether, in the then present state of the trade, the property of the company, with such heavy dead costs attached, would find a purchaser on any terms, but that it was certain that a forced sale, at such a time of depression in trade, would not afford a sum sufficient to discharge the debts of the company without further and very heavy calls upon the proprietors. That it was, therefore, quite obvious that the company could not proceed to sell, without making some other provision for payment of its debts, created, as they were, by the purchase of the property in question. That the directors had accordingly decided to avoid pressing further on the proprietors, but that the claims of the creditors were paramount to all other considerations. That the question was one in which all had the same interest, but, whatever difference might exist among different classes of shareholders, all were alike bound to submit, as in law, to the condition of the company for the faithful payment of its debts.

It was upon these considerations that the directors recommended the appointment of a committee or proprietors to assist them in arranging a scheme for discharging the liabilities of the company, which recommendation was adopted by the last general meeting, and the committee, having taken a very full view of the condition of the company's affairs, came to the views then expressed.—

1. The debts and engagements of the company, as the proprietors are aware, amount, in substance, to nearly £1,000,000, including the interest which will be due in November, while the property of the company, in consequence of the depressed state of the iron trade, yields no income out of which to pay interest, but, on the contrary, is of proved losses of further annual loss.

2. In this state of affairs, three courses presented themselves to the directors and committee. The first and most obvious was to raise money by calls to pay off the debt of the company reducing the expenditure to the lowest rate, and award such a reward of trade as would assist of the works being either carried on at a profit, or disposed of with advantage. But in this case there is no serious objection to the adoption of such a course. The second was, to make some other provision for payment of its debts, created, as they were, by the purchase of the property in question. That the directors had accordingly decided to avoid pressing further on the proprietors, but that the claims of the creditors were paramount to all other considerations. That the question was one in which all had the same interest, but, whatever difference might exist among different classes of shareholders, all were alike bound to submit, as in law, to the condition of the company for the faithful payment of its debts.

3. The third course was to endeavour to sell to the public the property of the company—and to do so—raising—by calls such a sum as would be necessary to pay the balance of the debts and engagements of the company, after deducting the proceeds of the sale. The objection to this plan was—that, at a time of such depression in the iron market as the present, no such sale could be made unless wholly, after providing for the liabilities of the trustees for dead costs, would be any material charge added to the debts of the company—and that, even if the proprietors could afford to add such a charge, the shareholders would be compelled, by the nature of their rights, to take an interest in the new company, and to pay interest, as well as dividends, on the capital of the new company.

4. Under these circumstances, the directors and committee are satisfied that they are entitled to the best course for the interests of the proprietors, in recommending that the debts, debts, and stock of the company should be sold in a new company, subject to the deduction of such a charge, amounting, in upwards of £1,000,000, per annum, for the use of the new.

5. In order to effect the intention of the company, and provided for by this rule, it will be the duty of the directors to induce the payment of the calls in arrear three years, interest, and fees, as far as possible, and to make such further calls as should be sufficient to cover the expenses of the present company, and the directors are advised that, even if, for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the company, such a call should be attempted, the directors and committee were advised that legal and technical difficulties would prevent a serious effect on the proprietors.

6. The third course selected is in a view of the propriety of a new company, so entirely distinct from the proprietors of the present company, by which means the directors proposing trustees will be compensated, and the whole amount for which the proprietors shall be held will be ascertainable, the discharge of the existing liabilities, which, from the date being necessarily effected in the present most depressed state of the trade, the proprietors, who take an interest in the new company, will have the certainty of benefitting by any rise that may take place in the value of mineral property.

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20. The report (Applause). He then read the following resolutions, as those which had been agreed upon by the directors:—

1. That the report of the directors and committee be received.
2. That it is the opinion of this meeting that, as the adoption of the proposed plan, under the difficult circumstances of the case, offers to the proprietors of the British Iron Company the only practicable mode of closing the old concern, with a reasonable hope of improving their position through the medium of a new company, the same be earnestly recommended to the proprietors.
3. That the directors be requested to ascertain the number of proprietors disposed to join the proposed new company, and to report the same, also what further steps they may deem expedient for carrying the plan into effect, to a special general meeting, to be called to consider the old report, and to take such measures as the shareholders may direct.
4. That the committee appointed at the general meeting on the 19th ult., be requested to send their assistance to the directors for the objects mentioned in the preceding resolutions.

The first resolution was then amended by MR. RENNELL, and passed unanimously. The second resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, a suggestion that the words "a practicable mode" should be inserted in place of "the only practicable mode," was made by Mr. RENNELL, and was agreed to by the directors.

Major Rennell said, in his proposition now proposed, they had not yet obtained any sum for the value of the estate. In the report they had just been submitted, on the purchase money, it had been agreed, and reported further steps they may take for carrying the plan into effect, to a special general meeting, to be called to consider the old report, and to take such measures as the shareholders may direct.

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Mr. JACKSON: You owe £20,000 to Mr. ATTWOOD.—The CHAIRMAN: On mortgage.—Mr. JACKSON: Has any effort been made to induce Mr. ATTWOOD to take back the estate of Congreve, and by this means to avoid the payment of the £10,000?—The CHAIRMAN said, it would be important, perhaps, to say that they had put the estate of Congreve for sale.—Mr. JACKSON: Would any attempt now be likely to induce Mr. ATTWOOD to take back Congreve for £10,000?—The CHAIRMAN: It would be perfectly useless to apply to Mr. ATTWOOD.

Mr. JACKSON: Major Rennell wished to know the name of the gentleman referred to in the report.—The CHAIRMAN: Major Rennell wished to know the name of the gentleman referred to in the report.

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principal parties were summoned as witnesses yesterday, but the public were excluded; even those interested—for we observed an auditor of the company present, but who, in common with ourselves, was required to withdraw. As we are, therefore, not in possession of any precise information, we defer, until our next, offering any remarks—as we may, perchance, in the interim, acquire such as may justify a notice; while we may, as *present*, observe, that we have addressed a letter to the committee on the subject of the exclusion of the public—a copy of which, with the reply (if any) we may receive, will appear in our next.

Now come we to Mr. FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON; and, that we may not make any mistake in the matter, as regards his connection with the company on its formation, we here give the names of the original directors:

- 1. FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON, Sheriff of London for the ensuing year, Threadneedle-street, stationer.
- 2. JOSEPH PIKE An agent of Lord Audley's, and co-agent with Mr. Jacob.
- 3. SAMUEL JACOB Clerical agent and partner of Joseph Pike (designated in favour of Bolard, the Exchequer Board principal).
- 4. REV. W. W. ELLIS Clerk, tutor to the late Lord Audley's son.
- 5. R. WARNSFORD Solicitor of the late Lord Audley.
- 6. GEORGE PARICKERT A gentleman under Joseph Pike's influence.
- 7. JOHN DAVIS Of Liverpool, one of the Talsacre "fraternity"—principal director, at £600 per annum.

We have now, then, to say a word or two for these worthies; and do not mean to except the hon. gentleman who, as sheriff of the city of London, heads the list. We will take our list upwards, finishing with Mr. FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON.—

7. JOHN DAVIS.—This gentleman was a director, not only of the West Cork Mining Company, of which Mr. Sheriff Moon was one of the projectors—the latter, in common with the former, having pocketed £500, by virtue of fifteen paid-up shares, of £60 each, being presented to them by Lord AUDLEY for "services rendered, or to be rendered"; but who, moreover, held office in the Talsacre Coal and Iron Company, taking an equally active part in that nefarious concern—it being a curious coincidence that £10,000 was the amount to be paid in money to the lessors, in both cases, although, in that of the West Cork Mining Company, it was agreed that £5,000, in addition (or, in all, £15,000), should be paid to Lord AUDLEY, out of which £500 paid JOHN DAVIS, F. G. Moon, and other "tools" in the direction.

6. GEORGE PARICKERT.—A gentleman under Joseph Pike's influence. We have not time to refer to our early reports; but, at the moment, we have nothing to say with reference to this gentleman. Of course he got his £500 qualification.

5. R. WARNSFORD.—This gentleman, as we have already observed, acted as solicitor to the late Lord AUDLEY; and the less we say of solicitors, perhaps, the better—although we may not be far wrong in stating that he took his £500 qualification.

4. REV. W. W. ELLIS.—This gentleman, who acted as tutor to the scions of the AUDLEY family, lent himself to his Lordship's views. The £500 qualification, with a certain understanding, we believe, in this case also existed.

3. SAMUEL JACOB.—The firm at Albion Chambers, Paternoster-row, with which JOSEPH PIKE was also connected, is too notorious to require any comment. The £500 qualification was also in this case, we believe, delivered and received.

2. JOSEPH PIKE.—Here we find the projector of the company, and the executor of the late Lord AUDLEY. He laboured throughout the business with no little success, and with no slight apparent degree of zeal; and, indeed, if we are rightly informed, he had fair grounds for the exercise of the peculiar species of talent he possessed, as well as application—inasmuch, that, in addition to his free shares, and interest arising from his immediate connection with Lord AUDLEY, he was further to receive out of the purchase money £6,000, as his part of the "swag."

1. FRANCIS GRAHAM Moon, Sheriff of London.—This gentleman was one of the original projectors and directors of the company. He received a bribe of £500 from Lord AUDLEY. He acted as director. He introduced his connections and friends as shareholders, to a considerable extent, on his personal assurances of the value of the concern, from his own individual examination (?) He sold or transferred his shares, at a nominal consideration, about the time that the *Argus* took place—or, rather, when the time arrived that it might be expected he would, in common with others, be held up to the odium of the proprietary and the public. We charge him with being one of the executors or shotters of the scheme; and we cannot but consider the city of London disgraced, which, amongst its Aldermen, lays claim to Alderman THOMAS WOOD, and, as one of its sheriffs, Mr. FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON.

We must, for this week, close our remarks on the West Cork and Talsacre affairs; and have only to recommend Ald. THOMAS WOOD, upon assuming the mayoralty, to have embodied on his coat of arms a lump of Bryn coal, marked "Talsacre"; and Mr. F. G. Moon, liveryman and stationer, as Sheriff, to alter the title of "foolscap" to "knave's-cap," in the way of business—and, further, to adopt a motto applicable to his mining operations, in connection with his armorial bearings.

PREVENTION OF SMOKE—SAVING OF FUEL.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh Police Commission, held on Monday (Donald Horne, Esq., in the chair), on the motion of Mr. Cawell, the minutes of the committee for the prevention of smoke were approved of.—We learn, by the *Sundance*, that, after repeated experiments, the committee found that Mr. Williams's patent operated admirably in preventing smoke, and they associated with Mr. Dick, that whilst the patent saved from 12 to 15 per cent. of fuel, it also greatly increased the heat of the furnace. The committee had also visited several other premises employing Mr. Williams's patent, where they were also gratified in finding a complete prevention of smoke. The committee were unanimously of opinion that the prevention of smoke from public works can now be effected by the use of Mr. Williams's patent, and that henceforth the clause in the Police Act relating to smoke ought to be enforced. The committee, therefore, suggested to the board, that public notice should be given to all concerned, that from and after the 1st day of October next, the Police Act will be strictly enforced against all manufacturers and others having public works, who do not adopt Mr. Williams's patent, or some other equally efficient plan (if any) for the prevention of smoke.

The committee also unanimously expressed their opinion that, considering the very hazardous conduct of Mr. Williams in offering the free use of his patent for twelve months, as expressed in his letter to Mr. Alston, the utmost publicity ought to be given to that offer.—On the motion of Mr. Cawell, seconded by Mr. Miller, the meeting unanimously agreed that "the special thanks of the board should be voted to Charles Williams, Esq., of Liverpool, for the very liberal and benevolent offer of the free use of his patent for the prevention of smoke to the manufacturers and others of Edinburgh for twelve months, and that the thanks of the board should be communicated to Mr. Williams through the chairman."

At the passing of the Birmingham Street Commissioners, on Monday last, the "Broomes' Committee" were urged to the adoption of stringent measures, with the view of abating the nuisance; and also requested to watch the progress of any bill which might be introduced into Parliament for the purpose of rendering compulsory the suppression of smoke. Much time and trouble have been consumed by the committee inquiring the steam-engine owners until January to decide upon the measures they may propose as the best calculated for suppressing the evil; the consequence of which is, that but little progress has yet been made—most parties dithering, as long as possible, interesting themselves in the matter.

Broomes' Broomes' Committee.—Much interest is now excited in the scientific world by the simple but efficient application of the powers of steam to abate similar sources of smoke from the use of the engine, these dimensions to the least possible amount. Numbers of gentlemen connected with machinery, and the steam-engine, are daily paying Masters, &c. a visit, at their works, East Greenwich, and some very satisfied of the immense superiority of this over the piston engine. We expect we shall be in a position, in a few weeks, to give more interesting statistical matter, from accurate data, on the performance of this description of engine, both in propulsive power and for stationary purposes. The work performed in Masters' boiler-reducing engine by one small engine is alone prodigious. We propose giving a full description of the engine, illustrated with two cuts.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MINING IN SPAIN—No. III.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR.—In continuation of the facts adduced in my last regarding the mining movements in the Sierra Almagra, it may be worth while to mention that the names of the smelting-works established in the neighbourhood particularly for the reduction of the ores of that metalliferous range of hills, are:—1. La Madrileña, situated at Palomares; Meros, Rodas, owners. 2. Carreño, at Villaricos, with a steam-engine; owners—the company working the mine of the same name. 3. Esperanza, at Villaricos, with four smelting-furnaces on the German plan, four ditto on the Spanish ditto, a calcining-furnace, and two cupolas on the Saxon principle; owners—the company working the mine of the same name. 4. Another small establishment at Villaricos, belonging to D. Pérez Domingo. 5. Encarnación, on the declivity of Sierra Almagra, near Jaroso; owners—the company working the mine of the same name. 6. Contra-Viento-y-Mareas, on the Almagra range, near the Río de Mairen; two smelting-furnaces, one calcining-ditto, one English cupola, and a condensing department; owners—the English firm of Scott and Co.

According to a report, drawn up by D. Tomás Toledo, civil engineer, at the request of the mining central junta of Cartagena, and dated April 22, 1843, it appears that, along the coast from Marbella to Barcelona, a distance of about seventy leagues, the smelting establishments already there were:—Marbella? 3. Mijas 1. Málaga 2. Motril 2. Almuñécar 1. Almuñécar 1. Benítez 10. Dalias 16. Roquetas 1. Rincón y Peña 14. Almería 11. Almería River 30. Garrucha 1. Villaricos 5. Aguilar 3. Lorca 1. Mazarrón 1. Cartagena 14. Alicante 6. Valencia 1. Barcelona 1; total, 128. In the report, the names of each place and owners are given. Of these, six are worked by steam power, and fifteen by water; eight are on British and four on French account. Among the former is a company from Gibraltar, and another from Guernsey. Of the number above given, four smelt iron, one copper, and the rest lead—mostly argentiferous.

The mining district belonging to Cartagena extends from Cape Palos to Cape de Gata, the latter of which is situated near Almería, and is known as the large and rocky promontory forming the most southern part of Spain. This cape is called by the Spaniards "Gata," supposed to be a corruption of *agata* (agate), which stone is found there, as are also amethyst, jasper, and cornelian. All the mining operations along the line between the two capes above mentioned are carried on near the coast, few or no mines having been opened in the interior of the province. The quality of the lead ore varies, in some places yielding only 25 and in others 50 and 75 per cent. metal, in which there is a proportion of silver, varying from 2 to 7 oz. per quintal. The Cartagena miners are perfectly well convinced that the process used in the mining operations carried on in the older time is no longer applicable to the modern system pursued in those countries where miners have the aid of science and experience; hence, they have encouraged the residence of practical foreigners among them, from whom they frankly acknowledge that they have derived great assistance, both in mining and reducing ores. By orders of the central junta, *The Natural History of the Mineral Kingdom*, by John Williams, mineral surveyor (2nd edition; James Millar, Edinburgh; 1810), is in the course of translation, and portions of it are publishing in the *Trabajos de la Minería*, now the organ of the Cartagena miners. This is as great a compliment as could be paid to our country.

Owing to the great distance from the mines at which water is usually obtained, and the want of washing-machines, the rough ore is sold to a great disadvantage to the smelters, who purchase it at the pit's mouth, then convey it to the washery, and afterwards to their own establishments—two distinct operations, which add to the expense. They also have to bear the charge of baskets? The dues to the Crown are heavy, being 5 per cent. on the net produce, 3 rials per quintal of coal, and in the same proportion on other necessities. The returns of lead are not given in any of the mining data published at Cartagena, but those of silver are pretty regularly recorded. From these it appears that, on the 24th of last April the St. George establishment of Cartagena, owned by Messrs. Bras and Co., of Lyons, capsuled 100 lbs.; on the 22nd, the St. Isidore, 85 lbs.; on the 26th, 141 lbs.; and on the 1st of May, 929 oz. The Britannia, of Alicante, a British company, by a capsulation, which lasted six days, in the middle of last April, obtained 14,000 oz.—the largest quantity ever yielded in Europe, by one operation. This establishment, up to the 14th of last April, is reported to have shipped, in the course of one year and a half, 373,738 oz. of silver, principally contracted for in France; and at the above period they had shipped and had on hand 16,000 quintals of lead; they had then paid to the Government upwards of 1,000,000 rials in dues and duties. In last May, the two French companies—Franco-Hispana (owned by Messrs. Pilet, of Lyons), in three capsulations, obtained 7186 oz. and the St. Isidore (owned by Messrs. Bras and Co., of Lyons), in four capsulations) 7111 oz.; total, 14,297 oz. In an address to the Government, presented by the municipality of Cartagena, and quoted by your correspondents, Messrs. Pinto, Pérez, and Co., in your Journal of June 17, it is stated that the smelting establishments above enumerated, in the month of March last, obtained 170,000 oz. of silver, by nearly capillaries.

The above detached particulars, derived from printed authorities, in the absence of general returns, will convey some idea of the quantities of lead and silver recently obtained from the mines within the district of Cartagena, and which, it is now believed, are affording employment to 50,000 families. In contemplating this new branch of industry opened to a laborious race, there is one consideration, and this is, that, in the underground operations alluded to, no women or children are employed. One peculiar feature in the mines situated within the Cartagena district is, that, in most localities the ore is found at a very inconsiderable depth: at the same time, in others, it is far from having been exhausted by the successive excavations made by the miners—usually, by following the run of the veins. There is also a great similarity in the appearance of the ore. That dug from the mine called Largo Verano, situated on Cape Palos, resembles the ore of the Ormenes mine, belonging to the Almagra range—almost, it might be said, two extreme points of the district—with this difference, that the latter is found nearer the surface. Good argentiferous ore, occurring in a vein which promises to be extensive, was dug from the Virgen mine, situated on the Mazarrón range, at a depth of only ten and a half Spanish yards. The Cartagena Mining Journal continues to publish, as space allows, a statistical account of each mine in the district, with the intention of presenting to its readers a general return, when the series is completed. In several, the quality of the ore is mentioned, and also the results of the assays given. The Espadilla y Busto mine, e.g., situated on the Barranco del Infante, part of the Sierra de Cartagena, produces ore containing 65 per cent. of lead, and 4 oz. of silver per quintal of lead; and the Ilustre, belonging to Sociedad, of Madrid, and situated on the same spot, produces probably the same results. Many of the mines will themselves of the old works left by the ancients, which, in some places, however, it has been a hard task to clear. The Carreño company, among others, has 160 veins of old levels, and only twenty-five of modern ones. The shaft is 170 yards deep, and the ore presents itself in the form of sulphur of lead, accompanied by yellow pyrites in some places, and in others with the oxide of iron. When dressed, it yields 75 per cent. of lead, and 4 oz. of silver per 100 lbs. of the latter. This proportion of the previous metal appears premonitory in the last mines.

Without doubt the Cartagenaans are far more advanced under great disadvantages in reference to the smelting process. It has already been stated that the smelters purchase the rough ore at the pit's mouth, often situated at the distance of a league from the washing machine, and the latter at half a league from the smelting establishment; two distinct trips on his moment. In order to form some idea of the smelters' gains, let 100 quintals of average ore be taken, the net produce of which may be estimated at 60 per cent. of lead and 2 oz. of silver per quintal of the latter—assumed, it might be said, the lowest yield obtained. The dealer and creditor account would then stand thus:—

	100 quintals rough ore at the pit's mouth, at 10 reales per quintal.	100 quintals of silver at 100 reales, and expenses of washing.	100 quintals, reduced to 60, corresponding to smelting, weight.	Reduction of ore, net of washings, at 10 reales per quintal.	100 lbs. from Bimetallic to lead, silver, of 4 oz. reales per ounce.	100 quintals.
1.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.	600 reales.	400 reales.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.
2.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.	600 reales.	400 reales.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.
3.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.	600 reales.	400 reales.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.
4.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.	600 reales.	400 reales.	1000 reales.	1000 reales.

London, June 10. W. W.

THE IRON TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR.—It has been very truly stated in the *Mining Journal*, while discussing the prospects of the iron trade, that the only remedy for the present depression would be either an increase in the consumption, or a decrease in the make of iron. Of the first, those who are connected with the trade can see but little hope, and, in the meanwhile, the ironmasters are looking around them, every man waiting for his neighbour to give way, being well aware that at the present crisis many must blow out their furnaces, and thus leave a better field for those who are strong enough to hold out against the continual pressure. Assistance from Government has been talked of, although what adequate assistance Government could afford is, by no means, apparent; it is, however, now currently reported that Government has interfered, by advancing 200,000 to one party, who, perhaps the largest ironmaster in the kingdom, had declared that such was the present state of the trade, that he should now abandon it, satisfied with its former and more prosperous times. That this man was advanced to prevent a large body of men being thrown out of work, and the consequent danger to the public peace therfrom arising. Now, if this be true, what is it but an act tending to continue that very depression now so much complained of, to prevent the iron trade from righting itself as it must ultimately do, and, moreover, as but temporary and local, a cowardly expedient to put off that evil day, which, nevertheless, must surely arrive. Hoping that this report may be contradicted wholly and authoritatively,

I remain, Sir, your's, &c.

Liverpool, July 3. — A WELSH IRONMASTER.

IMPROVED SIEVE FOR MINING PURPOSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR.—Having had considerable experience in the lead mines in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, I have succeeded in perfecting several acknowledged improvements in the machinery for reducing the stone, and other substances, found in combination with the lead or copper ore, to a state fit for washing or separating. The process heretofore adopted is extremely imperfect, it being done by sieve-bins, covered with wire at the bottoms, which, besides being difficult to keep attached to the bars that support them, become frequently damaged and worn out, and have to be replaced at least once a year. My invention is calculated to obviate these difficulties; I have constructed a sieve-bottom of iron bars, to be fixed upon the sieve in the place of the wire; one of these new iron bottoms has been at work at an extensive lead mine in the county of Northumberland for the last three months, and is found by experience to answer several good purposes: they are not liable to be broken, or to become loose by working; in fact, they are, in every respect, superior; they do more work in the same time, and to much better perfection; and will last from six to seven years, constant working.

The owners of lead and copper mines will find this invention of very importance, and to be one of the greatest improvements that could have been suggested in washing and dressing the ore, as the sieves can be worked by the mills, which before was done by hand; and this method of working the sieves has now become general in the extensive mining fields in the counties of Durham and Northumberland.

W. DUNBAR.

MR. SIMS'S IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STEAM ENGINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

SIR.—I think that all practical engineers will agree with me, that Mr. Dunbar's scholastic knowledge has been by no means sufficient to entitle him to the credit of having a thorough knowledge of the principle of the steam-engine—at any rate, such is the case as regards my combined cylinder-engine; and I have no hesitation in saying, that, of all those I have conversed with, or of those who have written respecting this matter, Mr. Dunbar displays the greatest lack of knowledge of the principle; I would advise him not to be hasty in furnishing the country with his opinions, and of asserting the impossibility of a thing performing what it really is performing, and which I have offered to show him in actual operation. If I had spoken theoretically of this engine, then I might be singularly ill-informed by such philosophical display of the knowledge of steam-power as was communicated from Mr. Dunbar; but having several engines working, and performing what I have stated, I have no hesitation in saying that I am perfectly correct in what I have stated, and that Mr. D. is perfectly wrong. In my letter of the 29th January last, briefly stating the principle of my engine, I said nothing about expanding steam in the small cylinder; my motive was to show the full power of the engine, when compared with that of a Boulton and Watt engine. We certainly have proved in Cornwall that the most economical mode of working Boulton and Watt engines, is by working expansively; but it must be evident to every practical man, that, in doing this, we take off a portion of the power of the engine, and which is in proportion to the expansion we give it; and that the only mode of giving full power to the single cylinder-engine, is by admitting the steam from the boiler the whole length of the stroke of the engine, of the same pressure as it is in the boiler, provided this steam can be condensed; otherwise, any single cylinder-engine, working expansively, cannot work with its full power in proportion to the pressure of steam in the boiler.

Our Cornish Boulton and Watt pumping-engines are all single power, and I have, on some occasions, seen instances where we could not work expansively, caused by the very great load in proportion to the size of the engine. The boiler not being capable of bearing higher steam, commencing motion by horizontal rods, &c.—in such case the probability is, that the cylinder is filled every stroke with the same pressure steam as is contained in the boiler. Now, it must be evident, that, if this steam could be used again on the return stroke, under a piston having an area large enough to expand the steam to its lowest effective force, and which area should be in proportion to the force of steam used on the down-stroke, and the large piston having a vacuum above, as described in my letter of the 29th January, I say it must be evident to all (except to those who know they are wrong, and yet the wrong persons), that the only legitimate mode of using the full power of the steam, as generated in the boiler, and at the same time working on the expansive principle, is by doing so with the hot constrained combined cylinder-engine. Mr. Dunbar's remarks relative to the force or power applied on the up-stroke of my engine, are so very absurd, that I am quite astonished that any man professing to have any knowledge of steam-engines could fall into an error so glaring. I would beg to ask Mr. Dunbar, or any other sceptic, that, suppose the steam at the termination of the down-stroke of the small piston should be 20 lbs. per square inch, and the space below the large piston (which may be as little as that piston can be easily worked to the bottom of the large cylinder), together with connecting pipe and lag, by condensation, may discharge the above pressure to 15 lbs.—what, I say, can prevent the large piston from beginning its stroke with 15 lbs. pressure? and, if the large cylinder is free from the control of the small cylinder, and, by the action of both pistons at the same time, the whole of the steam leaves the small cylinder and enters the large one, and as the elastic force of steam is in proportion to the steam's bulk—which prevents the steam from having one-fourth the density, and, consequently, one-fourth the force or power at the termination of the up-stroke of the large piston? Engineers have, by experiment, proved this; money informs us it is so, and I have several proofs of it in my possession. Mr. Dunbar's ridiculous arguments in this matter are similar to a man arguing that the Great Western steamship can never sail across the Atlantic, after having made about half-a-dozen unsound trips. He also brings to mind the following lines, which have come under my notice:—

No wind can impede such a ship,
and other winds there is a crew,

